

# The Advocate

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## LABOR TROUBLES.

Miners and Railroad Men Defend Themselves—Militia in Battle Array.

For several months past there has been a threatening murmur among the miners in the vicinity of Briceville, Tenn., where the trouble occurred about a year ago, and within the past week the trouble has broken out anew.

The prime cause of the discontent is the employment of prison convicts under the convict lease law. On the 12th the miners attacked the guard at Tracy City and liberated some of the convicts. On Sunday following 282 convicts and twenty seven guards were taken prisoners by an organization of free miners. They were taken away to Bridgeport on cars without any damage being done to the company's property. This created excitement among all the miners of east Tennessee, and on Tuesday a bloody fight seemed inevitable at Coal Creek and Oliver Springs, where a company of militia had been on duty ever since last summer. On Tuesday, this week, numerous shots were exchanged between miners and pickets, and houses were fired into. The telegraph wires were cut, and dynamite placed where it could be used if needed. The Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railway company sent a communication to Governor Buchanan, asking that the state protect them in their rights. Later in the evening the company sent the governor formal notification that they would not receive or feed the convicts who had been captured by the miners at Inman and brought to this city without their consent. As soon as the communication was read, the governor called a meeting of the board of prison inspectors. They decided not only to receive the convicts, but also to supply them with food, leaving the question of responsibility to be settled hereafter.

The three furnaces operated by the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railway company at South Pittsburg, employing 450 men, banked their fires, and will not resume work till affairs between the company and state are settled. The South Pittsburg Pipe works have also shut down for the present, as they are dependent upon the Tennessee Coal company for coke.

On August 17 the dispatches stated that a mob of miners were in actual possession of the east Tennessee company's property at Oliver Springs and Coal Creek; that all the engines had been captured, and some of the track torn up. That morning the miners assaulted the stockade where the prisoners were kept at Oliver Springs, and another skirmish took place, but no one was killed. Afterward the guards surrendered to about 1,000 miners, who burned the stockades. Convicts, guards and soldiers were loaded on flat cars and taken to Knoxville. Four

convicts escaped. Some of the soldiers were locked in a warehouse at Clinton.

Many different reports were sent out as to the number of men on the side of the miners. Some placed it at 20,000, and many of them are said to be veterans of the late war. As the whole state militia only numbers 2,000 men, calls were made for volunteers. The sheriff of Knox county, under authority of Gov. Buchanan, called for 500 men. Many petitions were sent to the governor (who was sick abed) asking him to take vigorous steps to quell the riots, and if necessary call on the president for aid. Thirty soldiers who had been stripped of their arms walked into Knoxville Wednesday night, a distance of thirty-six miles from where they had met the miners. Some of the officers are said to have bought their release. That night the governor ordered out all the militia, and called for 5,000 volunteers.

Thursday afternoon the most intense excitement prevailed at Knoxville and Chattanooga, caused by the reports that the miners had captured Gen. Anderson, of the militia. One report says: "During the fight two or three of the leaders of the miners were captured by Gen. Anderson's troops. A truce was raised, and the miners told Anderson that if he would surrender their leaders, they would allow him to return to his fort. He took

the men and went down among the mob. When out of range of guns, he was captured and not allowed to return. The leader of the men is the notorious Budd Lindsay, brother of the United States attorney for that district, who has killed eight or ten men in his time. Lindsay put a pistol to Anderson's head and told him he must order his men to surrender or he would shoot. Gen. Anderson answered that he would never tell his men to surrender. He was then taken to a hotel as a prisoner." That evening reinforcements of 500 volunteers were sent from Chattanooga and Knoxville to assist the militia and take charge of the 1,000 released convicts. The volunteers got arms wherever they found a hardware store, and some were furnished by citizens. After that day the trouble began to quiet down. Gen. Carnes took command of the state forces, and the latest reports say he has the rioters under control. The soldiers were frequently fired on by miners in ambush, and a number of both sides were killed on Friday. Gen. Anderson, who had been secreted in a farm house near Coal Creek for two days, was released on the threat of Carnes to burn the town.

Several hundred of the miners have since been arrested, and they are being indicted for murder and insurrection.

## THE RAILROAD STRIKES.

A week ago it was thought that the striking Erie and Lehigh Valley switchmen at Buffalo had lost their grip and the trouble was over. Two regiments of New York militia had been called out, and stood guard over railroad property night and day, as if the life of the nation depended on defeating the switchmen. A lot of scabs were brought to Buffalo and set to work handling cars along the different lines. About 250 of them were employed by the Reading road alone. Those at work in Buffalo were protected by the militia.

August 17 the Lake Shore switchmen joined the strikers, and the freight business at Buffalo was paralyzed. That being a point where the east and west lines meet, the strike is a serious matter for the railroads. Vice President Webb, of the New York Central, stated that there were plenty of men to take the place of the strikers if the state would only protect them while at work.

Grand Master Frank Sweeney, of the Switchmen's Brotherhood, stated the case thus:

No man can predict where this thing will end. It may spread like wildfire. Certain it is that the men have done everything that a man with one ounce of self-respect could do to avoid forcing the issues to a strike. The Lehigh Valley

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CENTRAL NORMAL COLLEGE AND BUSINESS INSTITUTE, GREAT BEND, KANSAS. (See page 11.)